(b) what were the prices of essential commodities during the corresponding period of the last three years as compared to the existing prices of October, November and December, 1987?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) There has been a mixed trend in the prices of essential commodities during the past four months. The prices of some commodities have moved up, some have moved down and a few have remaind more or less steady.

(b) Relevant information is given in the attached statement. [*See Appendix CXLV, Annexure No. 17*]

Expansion of Central Plant and Crop Research Institute at Mohit Nagar in West Bengal

382. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:

SHRI NARAYAN KAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for expansion of the Branch of the Central Plant and Research Institute at Mohitnagar, Jalpaiguri in West Bengal;

(b) whether Government have received any letter for implementation of the above expansion programme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken so far or proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(e) if no steps have been taken so far the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): There is no Institute under the ICAR named as Central Plant and Crop Research Institute at Mohitnagar in West Bengal. However, there is an Institute named as Central Plantation Crops Research Institute located at Kasaragod (Kerala) with a Research Centre at Mohitnagar, Jalpaiguri in West Bengal and information is as under:—

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) (i) to upgrade the centre to the status of regional station; (ii) to increase the staff strength; (iii) to acquire additional land.

(d) (i) Negotiations with the State Government of West Bengal for taking over of 22 acres of land are in process. (ii) Action has been taken to deploy the staff.

(e) Does not arise.

Survey of Haldia fertiliser plant

383. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 2078 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th November, 1987 and state:

(a) whether end-to-end survey of the Haldia Fertilizer Plant have since been undertaken; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) Yes, sir, consultants have since been appointed for carrying out an end-to-end suvrey of the Haldia fertilizer project; and

(b) The report of the consultants is expected by May, 1988.